

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

September 2, 2014

Twenty years ago, on July 1, 1994, Los Angeles County's Lifeguard Division was transferred into the Fire Department, which is also known as the Consolidated Fire Protection District, for purposes of public safety. This merger has been highly successful, with the consolidation of life-safety operations and a shared mission: to protect lives, the environment, and property by providing prompt, skillful, and cost-effective fire protection and life safety services.

During the last two decades with the Fire Department, the Lifeguard Division has continued to fulfill its responsibility to that mission and the public. Our lifeguards are recognized as the worldwide leader in beach safety and ocean rescue operations, saving over 10,000 lives annually, along the 72 miles of Los Angeles County coastline.

While the merger has been very successful for both the citizens of Los Angeles County as well as the millions of visitors to the County, the funding mechanism for the Lifeguard Division continues to be a confusing, complicated and costly process, involving partial funding from both the Fire District and the General Fund. By finally unifying the Lifeguard Division budget within the Fire District, administrative and fiscal efficiencies could be achieved.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
KNABE	_____

Precedent for this proposed action, the transferring of a portion of the property tax from the General Fund to operations within the Fire District, occurred in 1992 when the Board approved such a transfer to fund General Fund Forester & Fire Warden responsibilities. Unifying the Forester & Fire Warden budget within the Fire District achieved administrative and fiscal efficiencies that could again be achieved by unifying the Lifeguard budget within the Fire District following a similar process.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, that the Chief Executive Office, Auditor-Controller and Fire Department work to prepare a property tax resolution that would transfer funds from the County to the Consolidated Fire Protection District to fund the County's General Fund obligation for lifeguard operations, and to report back to the Board with this resolution within 30 days. A property tax transfer would provide permanent funding for lifeguard operations and ensure that any growth in revenue for lifeguard operations and fire protection occur at the same rate.

The resolution would include base-year funding for the lifeguard operations and any incremental growth of property tax revenues, using the same allocation methods that are used for the Fire Protection District. The resolution should also include maintenance of effort language for lifeguard operations within the Fire District.

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